

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Devon Energy State #16-5 Tie- In	Proposed Implementation Date: Fall/Winter 2006
Proponent: Devon Energy Corporation: 7525 Hwy 2 NW - P.O. Box 1644 Havre, Mt 59501	
Type and Purpose of Action: The proposal is to install a 6-inch poly flow line from well #16-5 to State well 16-7.	
Location: T25N- R18E- Sec 16 - SWNE. Lease # 32689-98 (Common School Grant)	County: Blaine
I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	DNRC, MMB, Mineral Owner, Surface Owner Richard Wortman: Surface Lessee Devon Energy Corporation: Mineral Lessee
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Deny the request
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
	N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] This proposal will take place on native sod within the northern glaciated province. The soil textures are silt clay loams and have fair production capabilities. Seeding requirements will be 10 lbs/acre western wheatgrass, 8 lbs/acre green needle grass, and 2 lbs/acre yellow sweet clover. The pipeline excavation will require backfilling and recontouring.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Ground water will not be encountered as a result of this project.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I air shed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed	[N] There will be no impact to the air shed as a result of this proposal.

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action?	
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The pipeline will require a 56.5-rod linear excavation. Total area of disturbance will be .427 acres. Reseeding and reclamation requirements are listed in item 4 of this assessment.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There will not be any adverse impact to fish, wildlife, or birds resulting from this proposal.
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no endangered or threatened species or habitat present on this site.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] During the field inspection there were no cultural sites located. The lease files were inspected and no previous sites were located within the proposed area.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Cumulative impacts to aesthetics are not likely to occur as a result of this proposal.
12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, and AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are basically only two major industries within this proposed area. They are agricultural and the petroleum industry. Both appear to work quite well together.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[N] There are no other studies, plans or projects on this tract.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] This project will not add to the health and safety of the area.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] The results of this project can contribute to the addition of increased natural gas production. This particular area is dependent upon both the petroleum and agricultural industries.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are	[Y] This project will create several temporary contracting jobs

	cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	during the permitting and construction process.
17.	LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] This project will create tax revenue from the sale of natural gas.
18.	DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] There will be a temporary influx of traffic during the excavation phase of the project.
19.	LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] None
20.	ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no wilderness or recreational sites accessed through this tract.
21.	DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] None
22.	SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] None
23.	CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] None
24.	OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] This project will benefit the State of Montana in terms of gas royalty production and from surface damage settlements.

EA Checklist Prepared By: Steve Dobson
Name

LUS Date: 11-21-06
Title

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Approve the gas pipeline project under the oil and gas lease.
26. SIGN4IFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Short-term and small-scale impacts to the native rangeland under and around the pipeline route is expected. All disturbed areas will be recontoured and reseeded to native grass according to the specifications outlined in this EA. No known archaeological sites are located within the project area. The surface lessee has been contacted and has agreed to the proposed route. The School Trust will economically benefit from this project by sharing in the production of the Sevens 16-5 well and surface damages payment. Overall, no negative environmental impacts are expected.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

Signature	November 27, 2006
Date	